

# Five Simple Steps to Help Your Patients to Respond to Domestic Abuse

These simple steps can make a big difference in the lives of your patients, many of which can be completed in less than an hour. These recommendations have been compiled from trainings conducted in hundreds of health settings across the country. The second set of “Next Steps” suggestions are more time consuming and typically require buy-in from health facility management.

## Simple Recommended Steps:

1. Put up materials for patients, such as posters on examination room or waiting room walls and placing safety cards or educational brochures in bathrooms.
2. Do an in-service with clinic or unit staff on identifying domestic abuse by using the video “Screen to End Abuse” ([Order a free copy](#)) or inviting someone in to review the steps for screening and responding.
3. Download and give providers in your setting [assessment cards](#) and [pregnancy wheels](#) to assist them in assessing for domestic violence. Also, view and download resources on the Iowa Department of Public Health’s webpage, [Health Care Response to Violence Against Women](#).
4. Call the [Iowa Domestic Abuse Hotline](#) at 1-800-942-0333 to find your local domestic violence service agency and order Iowa-specific resources that are available to you.
5. Commit to begin [assessing for domestic violence](#) at your health setting.

For training resources or other technical assistance, please contact the Iowa Department of Public Health at 515-281-5032 or [online](#).

